# The Plantlife of Ratho

Chickweeds, Stichworts, Pearlworts, Sandworts, Spurreys, Binks • 2021-07-22

## Thyme-Leaved Sandwort – Frequent on ground where the vegatation is thin eg quarries, bings.

Small somewhat trangular-looking leaves, petals smaller than the green sepals at their base.

Arenaria serpyllifolia ssp serpyllifolia

## Three-Nerved Sandwort – Common in woods eg Canalside path near EICA, Norton Woods.

Petals smaller than the green sepals at their base, the leaves broadish with 3-5 veins.

Moehringia trinervia

## **Lesser Chickweed** – Newbridge Roundabout.

Usually no petals, very few stamens, the leaves are all rather similar size.

Stellaria pallida

## **Common Chickweed** – Very common

Petals split to base, the stems with a single line of hairs (hold to light).

Stellaria media

## **Sticky Mouse-Ear** – Very common especially on scratchy or disturbed ground or pavement edges.

Petals split to base, the head compact since the flowers are rather stalkless; leaves broadish and often rather yellowed, plant rather upright.

Cerastium glomeratum

## **Common Mouse-Ear** – Common.

Flowers loose because well-stalked, leaves rather narrow. Petals split to base.

Cerastium fontanum ssp vulgare

**Lesser Stitchwort** – Common in grassy areas regularly allowed to grow.

Tends to look like a bridal spray, flowers not large.

Stellaria graminea

**Greater Stitchwort** – Patchy near the village (canalside just past EICA bridge), common in Calder Wood; present in most areas to some level.

Flowers large, petals half-split to base.

Stellaria holostea

**Bog Stitchwort** – Old Cement Works (marshy back), damp ground near walled garden, Dalmahoy Hill.

Petals split and the two parts at a very wide angle; leaves somewhat variable.

Stellaria uliginosa = Stellaria alsine

**Dusty-Miller = Snow-in-Summer** – bank opposite Bridge Inn carpark, canalside wall past EICA, track to Ratho Mains, A71 Wilkieston; often in gardens and escaping on the walls there and other places.

Flowers large, plant greyish.

Cerastium tomentosum

**Corn Spurrey** – Infrequent: farm fields eg opposite Ratho Golf Course, fields of Cyrenians, Pumpherston Bing.

Long spidery whorls of leaves.

Spergula arvensis

**Lesser Sea-Spurrey** – Common around Ratho on roadsides well-salted in winter eg Gogarmuir Road, Clifton Road, A8, A71, Freelands Road.

Flowers purply; leaves fleshy, narrow and rather scrambly.

Spergularia marina

**Procumbent Pearlwort** – Common all around where sizeable vegetation is lacking, filling in the space a bit like a moss.

Petals small if any; scrambles upon the ground.

Sagina procumbens

**Slender Pearlwort** – Frequent all around on road and path edges.

Like an upright version of the above, the green sepals at the flower base tend to be red-rimmed, and the flower stalk glandy (lens).

Sagina filicaulis

**Binks** – Patchy: Field edge SE of Baird Road M8 bridge, Freelands Road, behind Airport.

Forms a rather neat compact plant, the flowers small.

Montia fontana